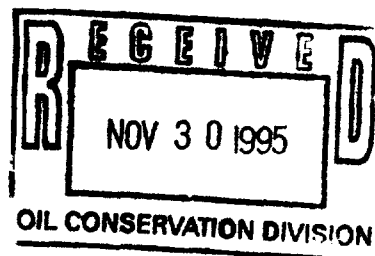


STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED)
BY THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR)
THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:)

CASE NO. 11,424

APPLICATION OF ENRON OIL AND GAS)
COMPANY FOR DOWNHOLE COMMINGLING AND)
A SPECIAL ALLOWABLE, EDDY COUNTY,)
NEW MEXICO)



REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

EXAMINER HEARING

BEFORE: DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner

November 16th, 1995

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, DAVID R. CATANACH, Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, November 16th, 1995, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Porter Hall, 2040 South Pacheco, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter No. 7 for the State of New Mexico.

* * *

I N D E X

November 16th, 1995
 Examiner Hearing
 CASE NO. 11,424

| | PAGE |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| EXHIBITS | 3 |
| APPEARANCES | 4 |
| APPLICANT'S WITNESSES: | |
| <u>PATRICK J. TOWER</u> (Landman) | |
| Direct Examination by Mr. Carr | 6 |
| Examination by Examiner Catanach | 13 |
| <u>BRUCE G. INSALACO</u> (Geologist) | |
| Direct Examination by Mr. Carr | 17 |
| Examination by Examiner Catanach | 28 |
| <u>RANDALL S. CATE</u> (Engineer) | |
| Direct Examination by Mr. Carr | 35 |
| Examination by Examiner Catanach | 50 |
| STATEMENTS: | |
| By David Bledsoe | 56 |
| By Stanley J. Patchet | 57 |
| REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE | 58 |

* * *

E X H I B I T S

| Applicant's | Identified | Admitted |
|-------------|------------|----------|
| Exhibit 1 | 8 | 13 |
| Exhibit 2 | 10 | 13 |
| Exhibit 3 | 12 | 13 |
| Exhibit 4 | 18 | 28 |
| Exhibit 5 | 19 | 28 |
| Exhibit 6 | 23 | 28 |
| Exhibit 7 | 24 | 28 |
| Exhibit 8 | 24 | 28 |
| Exhibit 9 | 25 | 28 |
| Exhibit 10 | 26 | 28 |
| Exhibit 11 | 36 | 49 |
| Exhibit 12 | 37 | 49 |
| Exhibit 13 | 39 | 49 |
| Exhibit 14 | 41 | 49 |
| Exhibit 15 | 44 | 49 |
| Exhibit 16 | 45 | 49 |

* * *

A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE DIVISION:

RAND L. CARROLL
Attorney at Law
Legal Counsel to the Division
2040 South Pacheco
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

FOR THE APPLICANT:

CAMPBELL, CARR & BERGE, P.A.
Suite 1 - 110 N. Guadalupe
P.O. Box 2208
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2208
By: WILLIAM F. CARR

FOR SANTA FE ENERGY:

HINKLE, COX, EATON, COFFIELD & HENSLEY
218 Montezuma
P.O. Box 2068
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2068
By: CONRAD E. COFFIELD

ALSO PRESENT:

DAVID BLEDSOE
Bass Enterprises

STANLEY J. PATCHET, PhD
Manager, Geotechnical Engineering
WIPP Project
Westinghouse Corporation

* * *

1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at
2 10:25 a.m.:

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: Call the hearing back to
4 order, and at this time we'll call Case 11,424.

5 MR. CARROLL: Application of Enron Oil and Gas
6 Company for downhole commingling and a special allowable,
7 Eddy County, New Mexico.

8 EXAMINER CATANACH: Are there appearances in this
9 case?

10 MR. CARR: May it please the Examiner, my name is
11 William F. Carr with the Santa Fe law firm Campbell, Carr
12 and Berge.

13 We represent Enron Oil and Gas Company in this
14 matter, and I have three witnesses.

15 EXAMINER CATANACH: Any additional appearances?

16 MR. BLEDSOE: My name is David Bledsoe with Bass
17 Enterprises, and I would like to make a statement at the
18 end.

19 MR. PATCHET: I'm Stanley Patchet with
20 Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

21 EXAMINER CATANACH: I'm sorry, I didn't catch
22 your name?

23 MR. PATCHET: Stanley Patchet.

24 EXAMINER CATANACH: Thank you.

25 MR. COFFIELD: I'm Conrad Coffield with the

1 Hinkle Law Firm, appearing on behalf of Santa Fe Energy.

2 EXAMINER CATANACH: On behalf of Santa Fe Energy?

3 MR. COFFIELD: Yes.

4 EXAMINER CATANACH: Any additional appearances?

5 Will the three witnesses please stand to be sworn
6 in?

7 (Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)

8 PATRICK J. TOWER,

9 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
10 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. CARR:

13 Q. Will you state your name for the record, please?

14 A. It's Patrick J. Tower.

15 Q. And where do you reside?

16 A. Midland, Texas.

17 Q. By whom are you employed?

18 A. Enron Oil and Gas Company.

19 Q. And what is your current position with Enron?

20 A. I am a project landman.

21 Q. Mr. Tower, have you previously testified before
22 this Division?

23 A. Yes, I have.

24 Q. At the time of that testimony were your
25 credentials as a petroleum landman accepted and made a

1 matter of record?

2 A. Yes, they were.

3 Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
4 this case on behalf of Enron?

5 A. Yes, I am.

6 Q. And are you familiar with Enron's plans for
7 downhole commingling in this proposed development area?

8 A. Yes, I am.

9 MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications
10 acceptable?

11 EXAMINER CATANACH: They are.

12 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Tower, would you initially
13 review for Mr. Catanach what Enron seeks to accomplish with
14 this Application.

15 A. Enron is requesting to downhole commingle and a
16 special allowable, seeks exception to Division General Rule
17 303 C, to establish an areawide basis for this downhole
18 commingling of the Delaware, Bone Spring and Wolfcamp
19 formations, of the current production in the wellbores, the
20 existing wells, or future wells drilled anywhere in Section
21 36, Township 22 South, Range 30 East; the south half of
22 Section 31, Township 22 South, Range 31 East; all of
23 Section 1, Township 23 South, Range 30 East; all of Section
24 6, Township 23 South, Range 31 East, with the current
25 production coming from portions of the Southeast Quahada

1 Ridge-Delaware pool, the Los Medanos-Bone Spring Pool and
2 the South Los Medanos-Wolfcamp Pool.

3 We seek an establishment of special allowable of
4 the wells commingled within this area, based on the top
5 allowable of the shallowest commingled formation. For
6 example, 320 barrels would be the rate of oil per day for
7 the Bone Spring formation, or 187 barrels of oil per day
8 where the Delaware is commingled.

9 Q. Have you prepared or has there been prepared
10 under your direction certain exhibits for presentation here
11 today?

12 A. Yes, they have.

13 Q. Let's refer to what has been marked for
14 identification as Enron Oil and Gas Company Exhibit Number
15 1, and I would ask you to first identify this and then
16 review it for Mr. Catanach.

17 A. Okay, Exhibit Number 1 is a land plat depicting
18 the area involved. And as you'll note on this land plat,
19 there's a coding symbol. In red, the red outline is what
20 we have called the development area, which is the area of
21 our Application for this commingling hearing.

22 The area in green, the green outlines identify
23 the existing current pools identified in the request for
24 the Application.

25 The area colored yellow depicts Enron's leasehold

1 position, where Enron owns a portion of the leasehold,
2 undivided interest throughout the whole area.

3 As far as the balance of the plat -- Do you want
4 me to go ahead and go into that?

5 Q. Yes.

6 A. Okay. Within -- As far as the ownership in here,
7 within the development area, Enron and Bass own the
8 majority of the working interest. Bass Enterprises
9 Production Company is currently the unit -- this falls
10 within the James Ranch Unit, which, additionally on the
11 plat, you will note by a black stippled outline where a
12 portion of this field is within this federal divided unit,
13 with Bass being the unit operator.

14 However, back to the development area, Enron and
15 Bass own the majority of working interest throughout the
16 whole development area, with the exception of the southeast
17 quarter of Section 36. Shell Oil Company owns a 50-percent
18 interest as to the Bone Spring interval, inasfar as the
19 zones that we're applying for.

20 Outside, you'll notice in large croyed letters,
21 outside within a mile boundary of the area of development
22 area, we have identified all of the offset operators
23 surrounding the field.

24 Q. Mr. Tower, the unit boundary is the dark dashed
25 line that goes across the map?

1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. That's operated by Bass?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And they're supporting the Application in this
5 case?

6 A. Yes, they are.

7 Q. The current wells in the area are also shown on
8 this exhibit; is that not correct?

9 A. Yes, they are.

10 Q. Let's go to what has been marked as Exhibit
11 Number 2. Would you identify that, please?

12 A. Exhibit Number 2 is a listing of all the current
13 producing wells within the development area. We have
14 broken them down by section and further subdivided them by
15 a half section, just for reference.

16 As you will note, we have also listed the
17 additional deep wells, not to mention just the wells in the
18 Delaware, Bone Spring and Wolfcamp intervals, for sake of
19 reference.

20 This Application, we feel, would apply in the
21 future -- As our geological witness will testify, these
22 zones are encountered throughout the whole field, and there
23 would be likelihood that some day these wells would also
24 offer the opportunity for rework or recompletion to allow
25 for the commingling.

1 Q. Is the ownership in the zones to be commingled
2 common throughout the development area?

3 A. Yes, it is currently. The -- All ownership is
4 common, as -- this being in a federal divided unit,
5 participating areas are formed with the development of
6 commercial wells, by formation.

7 Currently there's only one participating area
8 within the formation that we're applying for, and that
9 participating area is the Bone Spring, and it lies in
10 Section 6, a 120-acre PA. The uniform is common throughout
11 that whole participating area.

12 We do not anticipate any problems with subsequent
13 PAs, as additional wells are added or commercial additional
14 PAs applied for in handling this commingling. In fact, we
15 have had discussions with the State Land Office, as well as
16 directly with the BLM. As far as allocation among these
17 PAs for this commingling, does not appear to be a problem.

18 Q. The BLM has expressed no objection?

19 A. This is correct.

20 Q. And what do they tell you today?

21 A. They're hard to reach. We've been trying to call
22 them, though.

23 Q. Are all interest owners in all the formations
24 that are being potentially commingled -- have all of those
25 owners been notified of this Application?

1 A. Yes, they have. We have notified -- Within the
2 development area, we have notified all of the working
3 interest owners, all of the overriding royalty owners, all
4 of the production payment owners and the royalty owners
5 throughout the whole area underlying all of these wells.

6 Q. Is Exhibit Number 3 an affidavit with an attached
7 list of the interest owners who have been notified and also
8 copies of letters and return receipts confirming that
9 notice of this Application has been provided in accordance
10 with OCD rules?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Have these pools been commingled in other wells
13 in this area?

14 A. Currently there's one well that has been approved
15 and is currently being commingled. It is the James Ranch
16 Unit Number 71 well.

17 It is located in the northeast quarter of the
18 northeast quarter of Section 36 of 22-30. And it is, if
19 you'll notice, the green outline identifying the South Los
20 Medanos-Wolfcamp Pool.

21 That well is currently being commingled in the
22 Bone Spring and Wolfcamp formations, however not including
23 the Delaware at this point.

24 Q. Mr. Tower, was the Commissioner of Public Lands,
25 the BLM and the Department of Energy -- were each of those

1 entities notified of today's hearing?

2 A. Yes, they were.

3 Q. Were Exhibits 1 through 3 prepared by you?

4 A. Yes, they were.

5 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach, we would
6 move the admission into evidence of Enron Exhibits 1
7 through 3.

8 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 1 through 3 will be
9 admitted as evidence.

10 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct
11 examination of Mr. Tower.

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

14 Q. Mr. Tower, this unit, the James Ranch Unit, is --
15 it's my understanding, is operated by Bass?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Will they be operating these wells?

18 A. Some of the wells will be operated by Bass, some
19 will be operated by Enron.

20 The arrangement under some old agreements are to
21 the effect that prior to the establishment of these wells
22 as commercial wells by BLM standards, and then thus the PA
23 process, participating area process, Enron is allowed to
24 drill and operate the wells. Once they become commercial,
25 Bass takes over as operator, and it's selective as to

1 leases.

2 So in general, most of the wells, once they
3 become commercial, we have -- Enron has turned those over
4 to Bass Enterprises as unit operator.

5 But there is a mixture. We have some -- mostly,
6 primarily, some deep wells outside the Application area
7 that Enron still operates, and there are some pending wells
8 that Enron has drilled that all the data is being collected
9 and will likely be classified and put into a commercial
10 termination and a participating area in the future. And at
11 such point Bass will take those over.

12 Q. At the current time there's only a Bone Spring
13 participating area within the unit?

14 A. That is correct, within this development area,
15 yes.

16 Q. No Delaware or no Wolfcamp?

17 A. Not at this point.

18 Q. When a Wolfcamp or Delaware PA is established,
19 will that change the interest ownership within a given well
20 such that it won't be common?

21 A. It's possible, depending on the reservoir that
22 the BLM decides goes into the PA. The ownership could
23 become different, depending on the outline.

24 However, we believe -- and again, in the
25 engineering testimony that's going to be presented in the

1 allocation method, that production can be established from
2 which zone and allocated to the respective PA on a basis
3 that will satisfy the requirements of the BLM under the
4 unit agreement.

5 Q. You've contacted all working interest owners, all
6 royalty interest owners, and all overrides?

7 A. That is correct, and production payment interests
8 on some of those.

9 Q. And BLM and the State Land Office?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. Has anyone expressed any objections to this --

12 A. No, they have not. Mostly support verbally.

13 Q. How many wells do you anticipate being affected
14 by this Application?

15 A. If I could, I might defer.

16 The geological witness is going to identify the
17 producing wells currently in each horizon and get into the
18 wells more specifically.

19 If it would be acceptable, I might defer that to
20 him, to get into some of the details.

21 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with what Enron seeks in
22 terms of the process, whereby -- Is this the form that
23 Enron seeks final approval to actually do the commingling
24 on the wells, or do you anticipate having to submit some
25 type of additional paperwork or data?

1 A. In essence, it would be our opinion that this is
2 the Application to give us the authority.

3 However, we're going to leave it to the
4 discretion of the Commission. We were unclear as to, when
5 we start doing some of these wells and testing them, as to
6 what the Commission will require. Will it be a simple
7 letter to the district office, advising them of the zones
8 and the testing?

9 We were unclear as to the requirements of the
10 Commission, other than we are requesting blanket authority
11 to go forward with some simple mechanism such as a letter
12 of our operations as we conduct them, to keep the OCD
13 informed that we're complying with the commingling rules.

14 Q. Do you believe that commingling in this unit will
15 protect the correlative rights of all the various working
16 interest owners in the unit?

17 A. Yes, I do.

18 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay. I have nothing further
19 of the witness.

20 Are there any additional questions of the witness
21 at this time?

22 The witness may be excused.

23 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

24 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach, we would
25 call Mr. Bruce Insalaco.

1 BRUCE INSALACO,
2 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
3 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. CARR:

6 Q. Would you state your name for the record, please?

7 A. Yes, my name is Bruce Insalaco.

8 Q. Where do you reside?

9 A. In Midland, Texas.

10 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

11 A. I'm employed by Enron Oil and Gas as a geologic
12 specialist.

13 Q. Mr. Insalaco, have you previously testified
14 before this Division?

15 A. Yes, I have.

16 Q. At the time of that testimony, were your
17 credentials as a petroleum geologist accepted and made a
18 matter of record?

19 A. Yes, they were.

20 Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
21 this case on behalf of Enron?

22 A. Yes, I am.

23 Q. And have you made a geological study of the area
24 which is involved in this case?

25 A. Yes, I did.

1 MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications
2 acceptable?

3 EXAMINER CATANACH: They are.

4 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Have you prepared exhibits for
5 presentation here today?

6 A. Yes, I have, seven exhibits.

7 Q. Mr. Insalaco, let's go to Enron's Exhibit Number
8 4, your structure map, and I would ask you to review that
9 for Mr. Catanach.

10 A. Yes, first of all there's -- just to identify
11 some of the outlines on here, the James Ranch unit boundary
12 is outlined in blue. The development area is outlined in
13 green, and the cross-section is identified A to A', running
14 north-south through the area.

15 What this is is, again, a structure map on top of
16 the Wolfcamp. You can see on this that there is a gently
17 plunging anticline updip to the northwest and trending
18 downdip to the south southeast. I've identified the wells
19 that have penetrated the Wolfcamp with subsea datums. And
20 also you can see coded on this exhibit the wells that are
21 currently producing out of the upper Wolfcamp sand, which
22 is the 71 well that Pat Tower had mentioned, and the four
23 current Bone Spring -- third Bone Spring sand producers
24 identified by green circles, which are the Number 30, the
25 James Ranch Number 7, the James Ranch Number 17, and again

1 the James Ranch Number 71, the one well that is already
2 commingled with the Wolfcamp.

3 Q. Basically what does this show you about the
4 structure of the unit?

5 A. Structure is just gently trending approximately
6 100 foot per mile downdip, and that there really isn't a
7 strong structural component to the trapping mechanism. You
8 can see that production is up at subsea datum minus 7641 in
9 the 71 well and at a structural position as low as 7766 in
10 the James Ranch 30 well. So it appears that structure is
11 not an important component to the trapping mechanism of the
12 Wolfcamp and, as you will see, the upper Bone Spring -- or
13 excuse me, the third Bone Spring.

14 Q. All right, Mr. Insalaco, on Exhibit 4 there's a
15 trace for a cross-section, A-A'. Is that your Exhibit
16 Number 5?

17 A. Yes, it is.

18 Q. Let's go to that and review it at this point.

19 A. Sorry about the size of it, but we tried to
20 include all the different potential pays that we're asking
21 for in terms of the commingling.

22 Starting at the base of the cross-section, the
23 third marker up, there's a datum registered. That is the
24 top of the Wolfcamp. It's a bold line, again, the third
25 solid marker from the bottom. That is the datum used on

1 the structure map for Exhibit Number 4 that you have just
2 seen.

3 Here the basal zone is this upper Wolfcamp sand,
4 which is identified.

5 The next zone up is the third Bone Spring sand.
6 The next -- which is another pay that was identified on the
7 previous exhibit. And that takes us to approximately a
8 position of 10,900 feet below the surface. And then we go
9 from that datum up to the lower Brushy Canyon portion of
10 the Delaware, and that is at a depth of approximately 7800,
11 7900 foot. And then going from there up further, you can
12 see that we've identified three pays: the Delaware "D", the
13 Delaware "C" and the Delaware "B", the Delaware "B" being
14 the highest in this area at a depth of approximately 6800
15 feet.

16 Starting again back at the Wolfcamp, what I've
17 tried to do, I've identified with the colors. You'll see
18 isopach exhibits here. I used a 70-API-unit gamma-ray
19 cutoff, which is colored in yellow, and I also used a
20 density porosity cutoff of 10 percent. And where you have
21 clean gamma ray and porosity greater than 10 percent, I am
22 saying that that should be considered as pay for these
23 tight, very fine-grain, low-permeability sands.

24 Now, starting again at the base, you can see that
25 the Number 71 on the left side is open in the upper

1 Wolfcamp sand. Moving over to the well in the center,
2 which is the James Ranch 17 well, we are recently -- or
3 Bass Enterprises is recently completing in this Wolfcamp
4 interval or testing this Wolfcamp interval. They've shot
5 those perfs as registered from 11,171 to 11,185, and that
6 well is currently testing in this Wolfcamp zone.

7 Moving up to the third Bone Spring sand -- again
8 the well on the left is the James Ranch 71 -- you can see
9 that that well is completed into the third Bone Spring sand
10 interval, along with the Wolfcamp.

11 Moving over to the James Ranch 17, that well is
12 also a third Bone Spring producer, and you can see
13 annotated below the log that that well was completed in
14 January, 1995, into this third Bone Spring interval, and
15 IP'd flowing 35 barrels a day and 120 barrels of water.

16 Moving over, the second well to the right is the
17 James Ranch Number 7. It was the original third Bone
18 Spring sand producer in the development area. That well
19 was originally completed in the third Bone Spring in
20 November of 1974. It produced a very short period of time
21 and then was plugged off and gone down to capture Morrow
22 reserves in August of 1975. And then after the Morrow
23 played out, they came back and opened these perfs again in
24 July of 1982. And that well has been producing from this
25 third Bone Spring interval since July of 1982.

1 And then the furthest-to-the-right well is the
2 James Ranch Unit Number 30. This well was completed in
3 November of 1993, after just an acid treatment, flowing 14
4 barrels of oil and 13 MCF.

5 Later on, Bass Enterprises did go in and
6 fracture-stimulate it, and our expert witness dealing with
7 the reservoir engineering will talk about those rates from
8 that well.

9 Then moving up to the Delaware section, what you
10 can see is the second well from the left is the James Ranch
11 Unit Number 19. This well was originally completed in
12 April of 1993, in the Delaware "D" zone.

13 The Delaware "D" consists of approximately 300
14 feet. It consists of probably five major groups of sands,
15 and these are all -- each of these five major groups
16 consists of fine-grain laminated sands. We shot two of
17 those intervals in that well, from 7418 to 7511, and that
18 well IP'd flowing 213 barrels a day.

19 In October of 1993 we went up and added the
20 Delaware "C" interval. And again, after stimulating it, we
21 put that well on pump with the "D". So "C" and "D"
22 together. And at that time the well was tested pumping 78
23 barrels of oil per day.

24 Then we went ahead and recompleted up into the
25 Delaware "B", and again added that to the "C" and "D"

1 sands, and the well is currently pumping from all three
2 zones open.

3 What you can also see from this cross-section is
4 that these other wells that are just the Wolfcamp wells --
5 and there are many Morrow and Atoka producers out here, but
6 that all these wells have similar pay criteria for cutoffs
7 in terms of clean gamma ray and porosity greater than 10
8 percent in these Delaware sands.

9 And again, the Delaware sand, "D", is the main
10 producing interval in the lower Brushy Canyon in the area,
11 and we'll see that in following exhibits.

12 Q. All right, Mr. Insalaco, let's go back down to
13 the upper Wolfcamp and look at the isopach map, Enron's
14 Exhibit Number 6.

15 A. Exhibit Number 6 is a net sand isopach of the
16 upper Wolfcamp sand, and again you can see here coded with
17 the maroon square, that's the Number 71. That well is
18 currently producing out of the Wolfcamp. And you can also
19 see annotated the James Ranch Unit Number 17 well, which is
20 currently testing the upper Wolfcamp.

21 You can also see that the sands trending north to
22 south -- going from three feet, I think, is the thinnest
23 well, in the James Ranch Unit Number 3, in Section 1, and
24 it thickens as much as 66 feet in the James Ranch Unit
25 Number 18, in the north half of Section 36.

1 And what this map would indicate is that most of
2 the development area should be productive in the upper
3 Wolfcamp sand.

4 Q. All right. Let's go to the third Bone Spring and
5 look at the isopach for that interval. That's Enron
6 Exhibit 7.

7 A. Yes, this is a net sand isopach, using the same
8 criteria for cutoffs of net pay -- or net sand, excuse me,
9 for the third Bone Spring sand.

10 I have also indicated the four wells that are
11 currently producing out of the third Bone Spring.

12 Again, the isopach values, we have a well, the
13 James Ranch Unit Number 10, has a zero registered, and
14 going to a thickness of 56 feet in the James Ranch Unit
15 Number 13, which starts at a surface location of Section 6
16 and bottomholes in Section 31.

17 Again, this isopach would imply that productive
18 sands for the third Bone Spring exist throughout the
19 development area.

20 Q. All right. Let's go to Exhibit 8 and look at the
21 lower Brushy Canyon.

22 A. Exhibit Number 8 is a structure map on top of the
23 lower Brushy Canyon, again, a marker that was identified on
24 the cross-section at the top of the "D" intervals and at
25 the base of the Delaware "C" interval.

1 Here you can see again that plunging anticline,
2 structurally updip to the northwest, downdip to the south
3 and southeast. You can also see annotated in red circles
4 the Delaware producers, both "D" and/or "C" sand producers.

5 You can see that in the development area itself
6 there are currently seven wells -- excuse me, six wells,
7 that are lower Delaware producers. And you can see that
8 there are a number of other penetrations annotated with the
9 subsea datums that fall between that -- those six
10 producers, and the producers off to the southeast. And the
11 producers off to the southeast in Section 8, those five
12 wells are operated by Santa Fe Energy and are part of the
13 Sand Dunes-Delaware field.

14 So you can see again that the development area
15 falls between these two established producing areas from
16 the lower Delaware, in a good structural position.

17 Q. Let's go to Exhibit Number 9 and review the
18 Delaware "D" sand.

19 A. This, again, I had mentioned previously that the
20 "D" sand is the main producing interval in the area from
21 the lower Delaware.

22 Again, all six of the producers in the
23 development area are currently producing from the "D" sand,
24 and also the eight wells down to the southeast that Santa
25 Fe Energy operates are all producing out of the "D"

1 interval.

2 You can see isopach values as thin as the 16 feet
3 registered in the James Ranch Unit Number 3, to a thickness
4 of 127 feet in the development area in the James Ranch Unit
5 Number 37, a Delaware producer.

6 Again, this isopach map shows a trend north to
7 south, and it would indicate that productive Delaware
8 exists throughout the development area.

9 Q. All right. Let's look at the last isopach on the
10 "C" sand, Exhibit 10.

11 A. Yes, as again annotated on the cross-section, the
12 Delaware "C" sand is the next zone up, approximately 200-
13 foot thick, on the cross-section.

14 Here registered are two Delaware "C" sand
15 producers, the James Ranch Unit Number 19, which again the
16 "C" is open with other pay zones, the "D" and the "B" zone,
17 and the Hudson Federal Number 1 in Section 1, which is also
18 -- the "C" is also producing with the "D" interval in that
19 well.

20 You can see again thickness variations from the
21 James Ranch Unit Number 3 of 83 feet to a thickness of 180
22 feet in the James Ranch Unit Number 13.

23 This again is a north-to-south trending fine-
24 grain sand, and this map would also indicate productive "C"
25 throughout the entire development area.

1 Q. Mr. Insalaco, what geological conclusions can you
2 reach about these zones in the development area from your
3 geological study?

4 A. All right, that these zones, which are examples,
5 again, of the main pays, and that there are other Delaware
6 zones that come and go, that they are productive through
7 the development area, that they exist behind pipe in deeper
8 producers, the Atoka/Morrow producers in the James Ranch
9 Unit, within the development area, and I believe that the
10 undeveloped acreage is also productive.

11 Next, that we are going ahead in anticipation
12 with an order to start some activity. We have the James
13 Ranch Unit Number 16, which is identified on these exhibits
14 in the north half of Section 36. This well, we're planning
15 on spudding in December as a Delaware/Bone Spring/Upper
16 Wolfcamp test.

17 Next, as I mentioned, on the cross-section when
18 we were reviewing it, that Bass Enterprises is testing the
19 James Ranch Unit Number 17 in the Wolfcamp sand and that
20 they have plans to plug back and test the Delaware "C" and
21 "D" intervals in that well.

22 They are also planning to test the Wolfcamp in
23 the James Ranch Unit Number 30, and that Bass is
24 contemplating proposing two wells in terms of Delaware/Bone
25 Spring/Wolfcamp tests in the north half of Section 6.

1 And finally that in the prevention of waste, that
2 if we had to have multiple wellbores per proration unit for
3 each of these different pays, that that would be an
4 efficient operational method and that when pushing the
5 limits to the thinner areas, that if we have more than one
6 pay objective identified, that we will probably be able to
7 drill more wells.

8 Q. Mr. Insalaco, were exhibits 4 through 10 prepared
9 by you?

10 A. Yes, they were.

11 MR. CARR: At this time Mr. Catanach, I would
12 move the admission into evidence of Enron Exhibits 4
13 through 10.

14 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 4 through 10 will be
15 admitted as evidence.

16 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct
17 examination of this witness.

18 EXAMINATION

19 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

20 Q. Mr. Insalaco, how many wells within the
21 development area are candidates right now at this point in
22 time for commingling?

23 A. I believe that all the Bone Spring/Wolfcamp
24 tests, which would be the Number 71, 17, 7 and 30, would
25 have potential in the near future to have the Delaware

1 zones tested and commingled.

2 The deeper Morrow/Atoka producers have these
3 zones behind pipe, but they would have to wait until those
4 producing intervals fall off to a rate that's not economic,
5 and then we would have the opportunity to come up in those
6 wellbores.

7 I do believe that, again as I had mentioned, that
8 we will be drilling the Number 16, and that again Bass is
9 contemplating drilling two more wells -- or proposing,
10 excuse me, two more wells -- and that these wells could
11 also indicate the potential of possibly a dozen wells to be
12 drilled out there.

13 I mean, again, the proration units for these
14 pools are 40 acres.

15 Q. Okay. So at this point in time, there are only
16 four wells that are existing that are candidates for
17 commingling? Is that my understanding? Number 71, 17, 7
18 and 30?

19 A. In my opinion, yes. Those wells are currently
20 Bone Spring and/or Wolfcamp producers, and they have
21 Delaware zones that appear that would be productive behind
22 pipe and that we could come up and perforate those, but
23 that those Morrow wells -- as again, the James Ranch 7, 10,
24 13, 18, all these other Morrow penetrations have these same
25 zones. They are currently gas producers, and so I would

1 think that that would -- that testing of these zones would
2 be postponed until those wells are determined to be
3 uneconomic.

4 Q. Which of the Morrow wells again?

5 A. James Ranch Unit Number -- I'm not sure about all
6 of them. Just a minute -- Mr. Tower had an exhibit here
7 where he had identified --

8 MR. CARR: That's Exhibit Number 2?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, the James Ranch Unit Number
10 18, James Ranch Unit Number 4. And then the Atoka
11 producers are the James Ranch Unit Number 13, James Ranch
12 Unit Number 10, James Ranch Unit Number 1 and the James
13 Ranch Unit Number 11.

14 Q. (By Examiner Catanach) So all of those wells may
15 be candidates in the future for commingling?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Okay. The existing Delaware wells -- are those
18 only drilled to the Delaware formation?

19 A. Correct, sir, the James Ranch Unit 29 and 41 were
20 operated by Bass, and they were just Delaware tests. The
21 James Ranch Unit Number 19, 36 and 37 were Enron-operated
22 wells, and they were only drilling to the Delaware.

23 The only other well, the Hudson Federal well in
24 the northwest quarter of Section 1, that was formerly an
25 Atoka producer, and that well has been plugged back and is

1 a Delaware "D" and "C" sand producer.

2 Q. That's the number what well?

3 A. Hudson Federal Number 1. It's in the northwest
4 quarter of Section 1.

5 Q. Is that a candidate?

6 A. Well, it's already an example of a well that we
7 did recomplete from a deeper formation to that. But in
8 terms of the Wolfcamp and Bone Spring, you can see from the
9 isopachs that in some of these intervals it's thinning over
10 there, but this well also does have some mechanical
11 problems with -- uphole, just below the Delaware.

12 Q. Okay. Now, it's not Enron's intent to deepen any
13 of the existing Delaware wells at this point?

14 A. At this point in time, no, but that's something
15 that we could consider. And I would think, again, going
16 back to the deeper-pool wells, if it appears that these
17 wells are producing at rates -- and analyzing their
18 declines -- that it looks like they will be producing from
19 the Atoka/Morrow zones for a number of years, that the
20 potential exists that we would come in drilling a
21 Wolfcamp/Bone Spring/Delaware test.

22 Q. Okay. The additional drilling which may occur,
23 did you say it may be up to a dozen more wells, may be
24 ultimately drilled and commingled in this fashion?

25 A. I believe so.

1 Q. And I believe it's your testimony, and the
2 evidence shows that there, in fact, is potential in all
3 three zones within the development area?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. In terms of reservoir quality, do you see big
6 differences in the producing capabilities of some of these
7 wells, depending on the sand thickness and that kind of
8 thing?

9 A. Yes, I believe that there is some variation, but
10 I think our next witness will be talking about decline
11 rates and productive trends, comparing various wells that
12 are currently producing. So you will get a feeling how pay
13 thickness -- what influence pay thickness has on those
14 wells' decline rates.

15 Q. Have you tested some of the thicker zones in
16 these existing wells?

17 A. Yes. Again, starting at the -- this lowest pay,
18 the upper Wolfcamp, that is a zone that had been identified
19 out in this area, again, from the deeper penetrations, but
20 that prior to the testing in the James Ranch 71, the
21 productivity of it wasn't truly measured. I mean, we had
22 identified the sand, it had recorded some drilling shows,
23 but the testing of the 71, again, gave credence to that
24 being a viable pay. That well on that isopach has only 20
25 feet, and you can see again a number of the other wells in

1 the development area with greater pay thicknesses.

2 So I think that the rates that we've got out of
3 the 71 could be magnified in some of these areas where
4 there's thicker sand development.

5 Again, then, moving up to the third Bone Spring
6 sand, that pay had been established in the James Ranch 7
7 for a number of years. But in the last few years, we've
8 recently pursued offsets with the 17, 30 and the 71 for
9 that objective. And again, you can see that on the eastern
10 portion of the development area, we have thicknesses
11 corresponding to what's been identified in these wells.
12 And so again, as are indicated with the James Ranch Unit 16
13 location, we feel very good that we'll have sufficient
14 amounts of this sand to be a viable pay.

15 And then the same thing, again, as you move up to
16 the Delaware zones. The Delaware and the Sand Dunes field
17 down to the south has been an area that's been developed
18 over the last four or five years. A number of wells have
19 been drilled, and you're just seeing the edge of this
20 development in Section 8, but that we -- As that
21 development occurred, we evaluated the James Ranch area for
22 the same potential.

23 And we drilled three -- excuse me, five Delaware
24 wells between Bass Enterprises and Enron Oil and Gas for
25 this lower Brushy Canyon pay, and then the recompletion of

1 the Number 1.

2 And you can also see, again, that through the
3 development area, thicknesses corresponding are much
4 thicker, identified in through Section 6 and 31, as they
5 compare to the thicknesses of the sands producing in
6 established wells.

7 I hope I answered your question.

8 And again, looking at an evaluation of the Sand
9 Dunes areas, which is a field that's been established for
10 three to five years, we have very comparable thicknesses of
11 sand, net sand.

12 Q. Is it possible you're a part of that pool? Is it
13 possible that that Sand Dunes field is continuous up to the
14 northwest here?

15 A. That might be possible. I believe that -- and
16 I'm not an expert witness on this, but I believe that
17 potash area in the western half of Section 8 has restricted
18 the development of that, up towards the James Ranch unit.

19 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, I have nothing further
20 of this witness, Mr. Carr.

21 Are there any questions of this witness, any
22 additional questions?

23 If not, he may be excused.

24 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

25 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach, we would

1 call Mr. Randy Cate.

2 RANDALL S. CATE,

3 the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
4 his oath, was examined and testified as follows:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. CARR:

7 Q. Could you state your name for the record, please?

8 A. My name is Randall Cate, C-a-t-e.

9 Q. And where do you reside?

10 A. I live in Midland, Texas.

11 Q. By whom are you employed?

12 A. I'm employed by Enron Oil and Gas.

13 Q. Mr. Cate, what is your position with Enron?

14 A. I'm a reservoir engineer.

15 Q. Have you previously testified before this
16 Division?

17 A. Yes, I have.

18 Q. At the time of that testimony, were your
19 credentials as a petroleum engineer accepted and made a
20 matter of record?

21 A. Yes, they were.

22 Q. Are you familiar with the Application filed in
23 this case on behalf of Enron?

24 A. Yes, I am.

25 Q. Does the geographic area of your responsibility

1 with your company include the portion of southeastern New
2 Mexico involved in this case?

3 A. Yes, it does.

4 Q. Have you made an engineering study of the area?

5 A. Yes, I have.

6 Q. And are you prepared to present the results of
7 that effort?

8 A. Yes.

9 MR. CARR: Are the witness's qualifications
10 acceptable?

11 EXAMINER CATANACH: They are.

12 Q. (By Mr. Carr) Mr. Cate, let's first go to what
13 has been marked as Enron Exhibit Number 11, and I would ask
14 you to just identify that.

15 A. All right, it's a summary that I did, addressing
16 the producing characteristics of each formation, their
17 treatments, some perforated intervals, again, some average
18 producing rates that were derived, again, for each of the
19 three intervals that we're asking to downhole commingle
20 under this Application.

21 And the second page would then address the
22 reservoir protection issues as outlined by the Commission,
23 under their commingling rules. And then on the bottom of
24 the second page and into the third page, I discuss the
25 allocation procedure that we would recommend and adhere to

1 under the approved authority to commingle in this area.

2 Q. Exhibit 11, in fact, is a summary of the
3 information that you will be presenting with each of the
4 following exhibits; is that not correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. All right. Let's go to the producing
7 characteristics of each of the formations, and referring to
8 Exhibit Number 12, could you summarize the characteristics
9 of the Delaware formation?

10 A. Yes, as Mr. Insalaco had mentioned, there are six
11 current Delaware producers in the development area. What
12 I've done is normalized their production, oil production
13 versus time. And what I mean by "normalized" is that if a
14 well was in the Delaware, it might flow for the first month
15 and drop off and then need to be put on pump. When they're
16 put on pump, the highest rate then occurs.

17 What I've done is bring the highest rate to month
18 number one, and that's when we're really starting our
19 decline. So there may be one month or one and a half
20 months of lower production data ahead of this, or perhaps
21 it only produced for one week or two weeks out of that
22 month. So that's what I mean by normalized.

23 And what you can then do is lay them all on the
24 same time scale and see the comparison and see if they are
25 tracking. And in the Delaware, on Exhibit 12, it's -- all

1 but one of the wells, after this two months of normalized
2 production and certainly into the later months, shows that
3 they're all performing very similarly.

4 Q. They basically are pulling into line, do they
5 not?

6 A. Yes, they're all --

7 Q. How does this seem to relate to the thickness of
8 the interval or the geological interpretation and the
9 variations therein?

10 A. The Hudson well is the one in brown. It is the
11 highest producer on the normalized scale here. But even
12 after several months, it begins to come down in line with
13 those.

14 I think that probably the lower permeability of
15 the sands will tend to override the thicknesses. The
16 thicknesses will certainly increase the ultimate
17 recoveries, but as far as producing characteristics, I
18 think we're seeing just the low permeabilities as the
19 primary driving force here.

20 Q. What sort of initial bottomhole pressures are you
21 seeing in the Delaware?

22 A. The initial bottomhole pressures in the Delaware
23 are 3200 to 3400 p.s.i., absolute. And we don't have any
24 actual measurements in this area, but I did pull some
25 buildups from some Delaware wells south of here in the

1 Poker Lake field, basically the same subsea datum, and
2 that's what those showed. And you can tend to get a good
3 feel for it as you drill fluid and get kicks through it.
4 So I've looked at several of them, and that's what the
5 pressures --

6 Q. And when you complete in this interval, what sort
7 of treatments are typically being used?

8 A. A typical treatment -- Due to the low
9 permeabilities, again, you do an acid ball out to open all
10 perforations, and then in general they need a hydraulic
11 fracture treatment, an average of about 30,000 gallons of
12 carrying fluid, plus 80,000 pounds of sand.

13 And the other operator, Bass, tends to put more
14 sand in one of their typical jobs, maybe 40,000 gallons of
15 the carrying fluid and 200,000 pounds of sand. And that is
16 listed on page 1 of Exhibit Number 11.

17 Q. Anything else on the Delaware?

18 A. No, just, again, as far as allocation concerns,
19 you can see that I think we've got very close agreement,
20 especially as the time goes on, in which to be certain that
21 we're allocating the commingled wells properly.

22 Q. Let's go to the next exhibit, Exhibit 13, and I
23 would ask you to review the producing characteristics of
24 the Bone Spring.

25 A. Okay. Again, it's a normalized oil-production-

1 versus-time plot for the four current Bone Spring
2 producers.

3 I'll make a note on the James Ranch Unit Number
4 71, that the -- and that well is the approved -- currently
5 approved well commingled in the Wolfcamp and the Bone
6 Spring. What is plotted here is its allocated production,
7 based on the approved formula. And it lays -- I think it
8 is an interesting point and a good point that it lays right
9 in line, again, especially after two to three months, they
10 just come right together with the other production we've
11 got.

12 The James Ranch Number 7, as Mr. Insalaco had
13 previously mentioned, that well was the first Bone Spring
14 well, and we've got the most history on it. And then the
15 James Ranch 17, he also did mention, is currently under a
16 workover that is just -- We've just gone back down into the
17 Wolfcamp and completing it in anticipation of this order.

18 And again, the James Ranch Number 30. The main
19 issue, again, or what this really shows, is the very close
20 agreement of these zones after two to three months of
21 production.

22 Q. Bottomhole pressure ranges for the Bone Spring
23 are what?

24 A. Yes, we have got some actual static measurements
25 upon completion, and that's what's listed on page 1 of my

1 summary. And they are also presented as an exhibit, two
2 exhibit pages in this packet.

3 The initial bottomhole pressure was 6947 pounds
4 at 10,909 feet in the James Ranch Unit 71, and 5737 pounds
5 at 10,932 in the James Ranch Unit Number 30. These are
6 what are measured after -- I believe it was approximately
7 three days or so in the James Ranch Unit Number 30, and
8 four to five days in the James Ranch Unit Number 71, after
9 those types of shut-ins.

10 Q. All right. Let's move to Exhibit Number 14, and
11 I would ask you to review the characteristics of the
12 Wolfcamp.

13 A. Okay. I would like to say on the Bone Spring
14 that it also does require a hydraulic fracture treatment
15 due to very low permeabilities. And again, that is
16 listed -- an average job would be 80,000 gallons and
17 325,000 pounds of sand.

18 Q. All right. Let's now go to the Wolfcamp.

19 A. Okay. The Wolfcamp, we've only got the one well
20 in it so far that has a history, and then the Number 17 is
21 currently being tested, and it has IP'd over 200 barrels
22 per day flowing. And then there's some current work still
23 being done. But that is very similar to the testing that
24 we had in the Number 71.

25 Again, the first month of production, though,

1 does not average anywhere near the IP. They do fall off
2 very quickly. And as you can see on the Exhibit Number 14,
3 the first month averaged 67 barrels per day in the James
4 Ranch Number 71. And then it does fall off very quickly,
5 and I would expect this same type of production, give or
6 take a few barrels, out of the Wolfcamp in these other
7 wells.

8 Q. Treatment on this zone?

9 A. Treatment on this zone is -- Again, hydraulic
10 fracture is required due to low permeabilities. 24,000
11 gallons and 155,000 pounds is what we've been doing.

12 One operational consideration here which we did
13 bring up when we got the authority on the James Ranch 71
14 was, it helps the operation to be able to frac the Bone
15 Spring and the Wolfcamp either together as one operation or
16 separately but in the same operation, instead of several
17 months apart or several years apart, for -- Because when
18 you do draw one zone down -- and these sands are
19 approximately 100 feet from each other -- if you do draw
20 one down lower than the other one, then you can take the
21 frac right in, if you try to bring a new frac above it, it
22 could go right into the lower-pressured zone.

23 So there's an operational concern, and that could
24 result in reduced recoveries because of an ineffective
25 fracture treatment. So I did want to make that comment as

1 far as a need to be able to complete the Bone Spring and
2 Wolfcamp initially in these wells.

3 Q. Do you anticipate any crossflow between these
4 pools?

5 A. No, I don't.

6 Page 2 of the summary, up at the top, I discuss
7 that. There could be some wells out here, and it is right
8 now, the 17 and the 71 will soon be, but -- in which the
9 Bone Spring and Wolfcamp is commingled. Our pressure
10 measurements are showing basically just a gradient
11 difference to depth of 122 p.s.i., and subsequent flowing
12 bottomhole pressure data shows only 100 pounds' difference.
13 And again, that's primarily just due to the depth
14 difference in the James Ranch Unit 71.

15 After a few months of production, we did do -- on
16 the first page, I meant to mention that, after six months
17 we did run a buildup on the Wolfcamp in the James Ranch
18 Unit 71, and its built up pressure after 98 hours was only
19 3725 pounds, almost a 50-percent drawdown in a short period
20 of time. Again, that's due to the very low permeabilities
21 that we're dealing with. And then it takes a very long
22 time for these zones to build back up.

23 In a well where either one of those or both those
24 zones would be commingled with the Delaware, we will
25 artificially lift the well, and all three zones would be

1 artificially lifted, and we anticipate a bottomhole
2 producing pressure of 500 to 800 pounds, depending on the
3 type of artificial lift. And that would prevent any
4 opportunity of crossflow from the deeper zones, say, into
5 the shallower zone.

6 I did look at the rule the Commission has on the
7 50 percent -- I guess it's a 50-percent rule. The Delaware
8 pressures, if you correct the Bone Spring and Wolfcamp
9 pressures up to the Delaware datum of 7500 feet, the
10 Delaware pressures are more than 50 percent of those
11 adjusted Bone Spring and Delaware pressures as we have
12 measured, so that meets the Commission's requirement there.

13 Furthermore, if the operator, either Bass or
14 Enron, would agree to immediately notify the supervisor of
15 the Artesia District Office, in the event that any of the
16 commingled wells have been shut in seven consecutive days,
17 and present a plan for remedial action.

18 Q. Mr. Cate, what is Exhibit Number 15?

19 A. Exhibit Number 15 are the pages of the measured
20 pressures, bottomhole pressures, in the James Ranch 71 and
21 the James Ranch Unit Number 30 that show at a corrected
22 datum what -- a corrected datum of 7500 feet, which is the
23 Delaware datum -- what the anticipated pressures could be.
24 And then that is what is compared to the 50-percent rule.

25 Q. Do you anticipate any problems with the

1 compatibilities of the commingled fluids?

2 A. No, we don't. We have given Martin Water Lab the
3 produced waters, and they have given us a report that
4 states they see no incompatibilities at whatever different
5 proportions of mixtures might be.

6 Q. And is their report what is marked Exhibit 16?

7 A. Yes, it is.

8 Q. What are the gravities of the oils that will be
9 commingled?

10 A. The oil gravities are in the 41 to 43.1 range,
11 with the Delaware being the lower, and the Wolfcamp/Bone
12 Spring the upper.

13 Bass has shown me -- They have measured some
14 gravities slightly higher than the 43, but I took our
15 numbers from our wells that -- in which we're selling out
16 of the tanks, and that is the basis on which you are paid,
17 and that's the comparison I'm making.

18 Q. Should commingling affect the value of the
19 commingled production?

20 A. No, it will not. These are so similar that there
21 won't be any difference in price received if the streams
22 are commingled.

23 Q. What is the potential for secondary recovery
24 operations in this area?

25 A. In the Bone Spring and the Wolfcamp, we see very

1 little, just due to the depth and the low permeabilities,
2 possibly some technology in the future, gas injection or
3 something. But right now we just can't see it.

4 Now, the Delaware is a possible waterflood
5 candidate. We don't anticipate it for any time in the near
6 future. And if the Delaware or a portion of it were to
7 need to be flooded in those wells, we could easily isolate
8 the zones for a flood, or redrill the Delaware in that
9 case.

10 Q. How does Enron recommend that the production be
11 allocated between the commingled zones?

12 A. We would recommend a procedure as follows: We
13 would initially complete the Bone Spring and Wolfcamp
14 formations, monitor the production for 30 to 90 days or
15 until stabilized, and as the normalized oil-production
16 first-time plots show, we think we have very good agreement
17 and can predict very well what the production should be.

18 We can run a production log, which we have found
19 to be accurate in the past and/or isolate, mechanically
20 isolate, the zones when it is time to bring the Delaware
21 production on and get an actual flowing test there, which
22 would just require a temporary plug being set over the Bone
23 Spring until the Delaware is completed and it is tested for
24 30 or 90 days, in which we will get actual production data
25 on which to base our allocation, once all three or two

1 zones are commingled.

2 The allocation would be consistent with actual
3 tests and then closely compared to the expected rates,
4 based on the offset production histories of the wells that
5 we have in the development area.

6 Q. Enron's requesting a special allowable within the
7 development area. Could you explain that request to Mr.
8 Catanach?

9 A. Yes, that would be on page 3 of this summary
10 here, Exhibit 11, and we requested the daily allowable for
11 commingling to be set as the top allowable of the
12 shallowest zone commingled. Partly, that's -- that gives
13 it a single allowable across the field, and it's easy to
14 calculate, obviously.

15 And therefore, if the Bone Spring is the
16 shallowest of the commingled zones, it would be 320 barrels
17 of oil per day, based on the standard depth bracket
18 allowable under Rule 505.

19 If the Delaware sand is the shallowest formation
20 commingled, then we would ask for 187 barrels per day.

21 The first month's average production on these
22 wells is 286 barrels of oil per day, but because we do not
23 anticipate full commingling of all three or two sands until
24 probably two to three months, then I don't believe we're
25 going to need an allowable higher than the 187, in the

1 event the Delaware is included.

2 The third month average production of all three
3 zones is 124 barrels per day. Again, that's average, and
4 there could be some wells a little higher and some wells a
5 little lower.

6 Also, we think the standard gas limit rules, 2000
7 to 1 GOR, apply here. And under the commingling rules, the
8 Commission has in place a water production limit of 80
9 barrels per day, per commingled zone is also appropriate.

10 Q. Now, Mr. Cate, in this case Enron is seeking
11 authority to -- blanket authority to downhole commingle in
12 this area and a special allowable; is that right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And then you'll go forward and be developing the
15 area on a well-by-well basis?

16 A. Yes, we would.

17 Q. And all other requirements of the state or
18 federal government will have to be met at the time those
19 wells are drilled on a well-by-well basis; is that correct?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Can you summarize for the Examiner the results
22 that you anticipate will accrue if, in fact, this
23 Application is approved?

24 A. Yes. As Mr. Insalaco has stated, additional
25 drilling, we believe, would occur, especially when we get

1 to the edges of the sands, with two or three potential
2 targets, rather than just one, and knowing that the zones
3 can be commingled. That will result in more drilling.
4 We've already started additional workover activity in
5 anticipation of the authority.

6 Waste would be prevented, because we will not
7 have to drill additional or extra wells for the Delaware
8 sands. And we are more likely, then, to take every well
9 down to the Wolfcamp, even if it's primarily a Delaware
10 target. So we will most likely produce reserves that would
11 not otherwise be produced without the order. And we are
12 just -- That would just allow us to more efficiently and
13 economically develop this area.

14 Q. If the allocation procedures that you're
15 recommending are adopted, in your opinion, will correlative
16 rights be protected?

17 A. Yes, they will.

18 Q. Were Exhibits 11 through 16 either prepared by
19 you or compiled at your direction?

20 A. Yes, they were.

21 MR. CARR: At this time, Mr. Catanach, we would
22 move the admission into evidence of Enron Exhibits 11
23 through 16.

24 EXAMINER CATANACH: Exhibits 11 through 16 will
25 be admitted as evidence.

1 MR. CARR: And that concludes my direct
2 examination of Mr. Cate.

3 EXAMINATION

4 BY EXAMINER CATANACH:

5 Q. Mr. Cate, the rates that you expect to encounter
6 in the Wolfcamp and Bone Spring intervals, are they not
7 sufficient to justify drilling stand-alone wells?

8 A. They -- Probably alone, we would rank these very
9 low on where we would want to spend our money. We would
10 probably be coming in on every well that we drill and
11 asking for commingling authority right up front on the
12 Wolfcamp and Bone Spring. I mean, I'm sure we would. And
13 we've already done that on the James Ranch Unit 71.

14 So I would not say that we would not drill the
15 wells without the Delaware, but we would certainly not go
16 beyond where we know we can get both zones together and
17 have a reasonable chance of getting those without knowing
18 that we can get the Delaware included also.

19 The Wolfcamp, I think you can see at 20 barrels a
20 day, that by itself would probably not meet guidelines for
21 us to drill wells, just for the Wolfcamp.

22 Q. Have you looked at a dual-completion-type setup
23 in the Wolfcamp and in the Bone Spring?

24 A. We've considered that. Because the wells have to
25 be frac'd, you take a risk at this depth of planting your

1 packer or whatever tool assembly would be required to
2 separate or isolate the zones, and if sand comes in then
3 we're talking a lot of money. And we've had one or two
4 experiences out there where something like that has
5 occurred, and we would prefer not to.

6 Q. Is it economically viable to dually complete
7 those two zones, aside from operational problems?

8 A. It probably is. It's -- Again, it probably is
9 economic, but it is just laden with operational risks that
10 could potentially cause you to lose either one of the zones
11 if in fact tools got stuck down there and could not be
12 fished.

13 Q. Now, the producing rates in the Delaware may be
14 sufficient to justify just drilling Delaware wells, are
15 they not?

16 A. Yes, and we've drilled several Delaware stand-
17 alone wells. Again, it cost a lot of extra money,
18 approximately \$600,000 per Delaware well, and I believe
19 that that is or would fall under a waste provision, if we
20 don't -- if there's any way not to have to drill two wells
21 to basically recover the same reserves that one well could.

22 Q. Having to drill two wells is not going to
23 decrease any kind of ultimate oil recovery?

24 A. No, I don't believe it would ultimately decrease.

25 Q. Do you feel like commingling might increase

1 recovery, say due to reduced operating costs?

2 A. Yes, there would definitely be a reduced
3 operating cost, and any one of the zones would have a lot
4 lower production rate necessary to keep producing the
5 wells, so that that's exactly right.

6 The economic life of the wells will definitely be
7 prolonged due to the commingling, and additional reserves
8 would definitely be recovered.

9 Q. You see no problem in crossflow of any kind
10 between the commingling Delaware and any of the other
11 zones?

12 A. No, I don't. I think -- And that's part of the
13 reason we don't mind taking some time and producing the
14 Wolfcamp and Bone Spring on down. And the pressure data
15 we've collected indicates that -- because it's so low perm,
16 it -- near a wellbore, it is going to fall down to levels
17 that I just don't believe would be conducive to crossflow
18 at all.

19 And again, we will install artificial lift and
20 keep the bottomhole pressures well below the shut-in
21 pressures of these wells, or of the zones.

22 Q. So that that artificial lift will be installed
23 before commingling takes place in any of the zones?

24 A. That's correct, yes. Or at the same time that
25 commingling takes place.

1 Q. Now, in each of the existing wells and the future
2 wells to be drilled, is it your intent to in fact commingle
3 all three zones, or are you going to pick and choose?

4 A. I think at this point, based on Mr. Insalaco's
5 geology within this development area, we would anticipate
6 all three zones to be commingled. And of course, it's hard
7 to predict without actual well logs, but that is our intent
8 and that is what we're asking for.

9 If I might expand on that a little bit, if we
10 were to encounter a zone that is substantially different
11 than what we have seen so far, a Cherry Canyon zone that is
12 prolific and capable of top allowable all by itself, in
13 that case, I could see that we would not -- It would, then,
14 be worthy of its own development program, and I would say
15 in that case, we would probably not need or feel the need
16 to commingle in that case.

17 Q. Did you give a three-month average production
18 rate?

19 A. Yes, it's on the first page. For --

20 Q. Okay, for --

21 A. -- for each zone. And if you add those three-
22 month averages up, it comes to 124 barrels of oil per day.

23 Q. What do you anticipate being the procedure
24 after -- if we give you blanket approval? Do you
25 anticipate having to submit additional data or paperwork

1 for this?

2 A. Yes, I think so. I think our intent would be to
3 provide an allocation based on our test data, either -- as
4 the Commission dictates, either to the Artesia District
5 Supervisor or the Division, whichever one you choose, and
6 we would provide that and be willing to provide any backup
7 test data to support that allocation if the Commission
8 desires.

9 And we would anticipate doing that on every well
10 that we commingle.

11 Q. Okay. As far as -- You don't anticipate having
12 to submit pressure data or anything else required by 303?

13 A. When we -- I don't -- We don't intend to collect
14 data on every well for that purpose, to supply. But in our
15 normal operations we do collect pressure data, and in those
16 cases that we do we would definitely make it available, if
17 the Commission wanted it.

18 Q. You feel like the data you've presented here is
19 going to be very representative of the data obtained within
20 the whole development area?

21 A. Yes, we've studied the -- all three formations.
22 And I believe we've collected enough data at this point
23 that that -- this does represent what we should expect on
24 further wells drilled and the workovers into the behind-
25 pipe.

1 Q. Do you have a preference -- On the Bone
2 Spring/Wolfcamp testing, do you have a preference of
3 running either the production log or mechanically isolating
4 the intervals?

5 A. No, I believe both are accurate. I think that
6 when we do prepare to temporarily plug the Bone
7 Spring/Wolfcamp to complete the Delaware, that at that
8 point it would be a good time to do an isolation test of
9 the Bone Spring/Wolfcamp and -- for a short-term, possibly
10 a week, and then go on up the hole.

11 But we have found the production logs to be an
12 accurate measurement tool, and so we would like to be able
13 to run one or the other. But we will do one or the other
14 in order to verify the allocation.

15 Q. You're asking for an 80-barrels-per-day limit on
16 the water per zone; isn't that right?

17 A. Yes. Based on what we've seen on the water
18 production, that will be sufficient for -- to cover any
19 water produced.

20 The Delaware generally will potential with -- The
21 highest water out of the three zones comes from the
22 Delaware. And as you can see, it can be in the hundred
23 barrels per day on an average, on initial potential. But
24 it drops to about 80 barrels per day within just a few
25 months, and it will decline on down with the oil

1 production. So I do feel that would be sufficient for us.

2 Q. Is that high water production -- would that in
3 any way detrimentally affect the Bone Spring or Wolfcamp?

4 A. No. Again, with the wells on pump, on artificial
5 lift, we'll definitely be moving the water.

6 And number two, the compatibility test, as done
7 by Martin Water Lab, shows -- they saw no tendency to
8 precipitate any harmful solubles or whatever -- scale.

9 EXAMINER CATANACH: I think that's all I have,
10 Mr. Carr.

11 Do you have anything further?

12 MR. CARR: Nothing further, Mr. Catanach.

13 EXAMINER CATANACH: This witness may be excused.

14 Is there anything further by any of the parties
15 in this case?

16 MR. CARR: I think there's statements, Mr.
17 Catanach.

18 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay. We'll accept
19 statements at this time.

20 MR. BLEDSOE: I'm David Bledsoe with Bass. We
21 are the operator of the James Ranch Unit, and we are in
22 full support of the commingling order to commingle all
23 three of these zones.

24 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay, thank you.

25 Any additional statements?

1 MR. PATCHET: I'm Stanley Patchet, Westinghouse
2 Electric Corporation. We're the manager and operating
3 contractor for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. We have no
4 comments or questions, but we would like to continue to be
5 considered an interested party.

6 EXAMINER CATANACH: Okay. Anything else?

7 Okay, there being nothing further in this case,
8 this case, Number 11,424, will be taken under advisement.

9 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at
10 11:52 a.m.)

11 * * *

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19 I do hereby certify that the foregoing is
20 a complete record of the proceedings in
the Examiner hearing of Case No. 11424
21 heard by me on November 16 1974
David P. Catanach . Examiner
22 Off Conservation Division
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF SANTA FE)

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL November 22nd, 1995.



STEVEN T. BRENNER
CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 14, 1998